

HELLCAT

CANTWELL • LINS • DÍAZ



Patsy Walker is a former teen celebrity turned super hero with supernatural and psychic powers. During her storied life, she's been an Avenger and private investigator, was married to the Son of Satan, died, went to hell and was resurrected. Having relocated to the West Coast, Patsy is determined to escape the ghosts of her past and claw out a new future as ...

HELLCAT

"THE KNOW-IT-ALL"

Patsy's new boyfriend, Spalding Grantham, was brutally murdered. Patsy's memories leading up to the murder are clouded, save for partially recalling a violent fight with an unknown person. Patsy's friend Hedy, also Spalding's ex, confronted her with her suspicions while Patsy's demonic ex-husband Daimon, trapped in the form of a plush bunny, has been secretly observing her.

With Patsy as the police's lead suspect in Spalding's murder, she set out to investigate on her own. She discovered her occasional ally Sleepwalker's Imaginator hidden at the crime scene. When Patsy questioned Rick Sheridan, Sleepwalker's human host, he revealed that the Sleepwalker collective suspects that he killed Spalding--since he is in love with Patsy!

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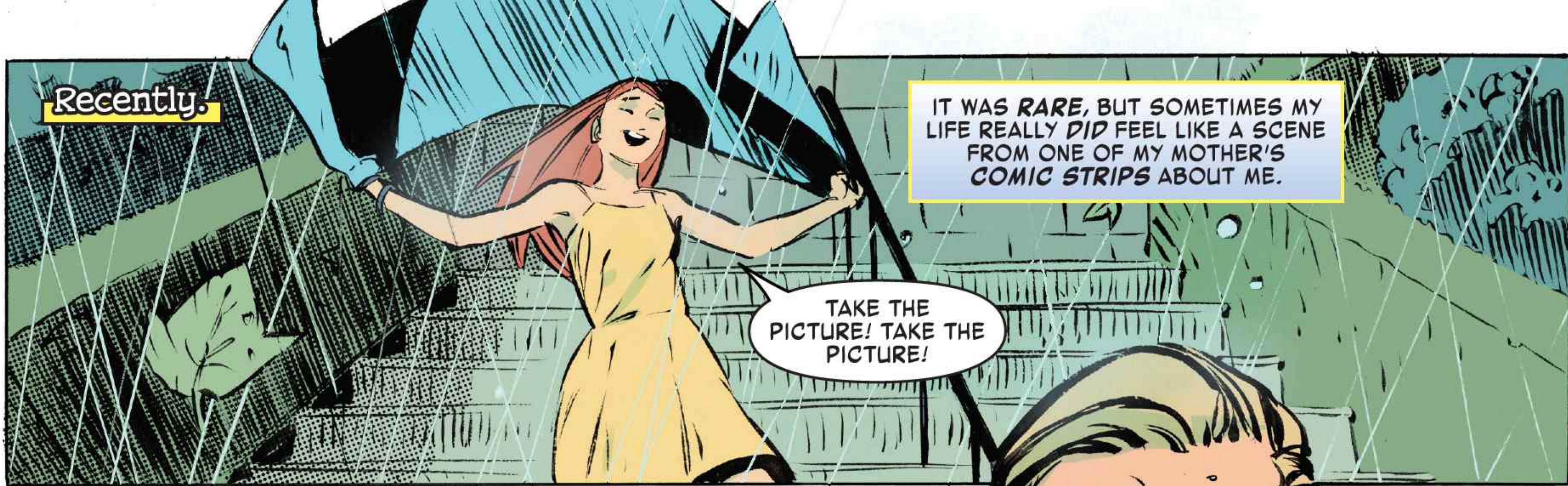
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Recently.

IT WAS RARE, BUT SOMETIMES MY LIFE REALLY DID FEEL LIKE A SCENE FROM ONE OF MY MOTHER'S COMIC STRIPS ABOUT ME.

TAKE THE PICTURE! TAKE THE PICTURE!

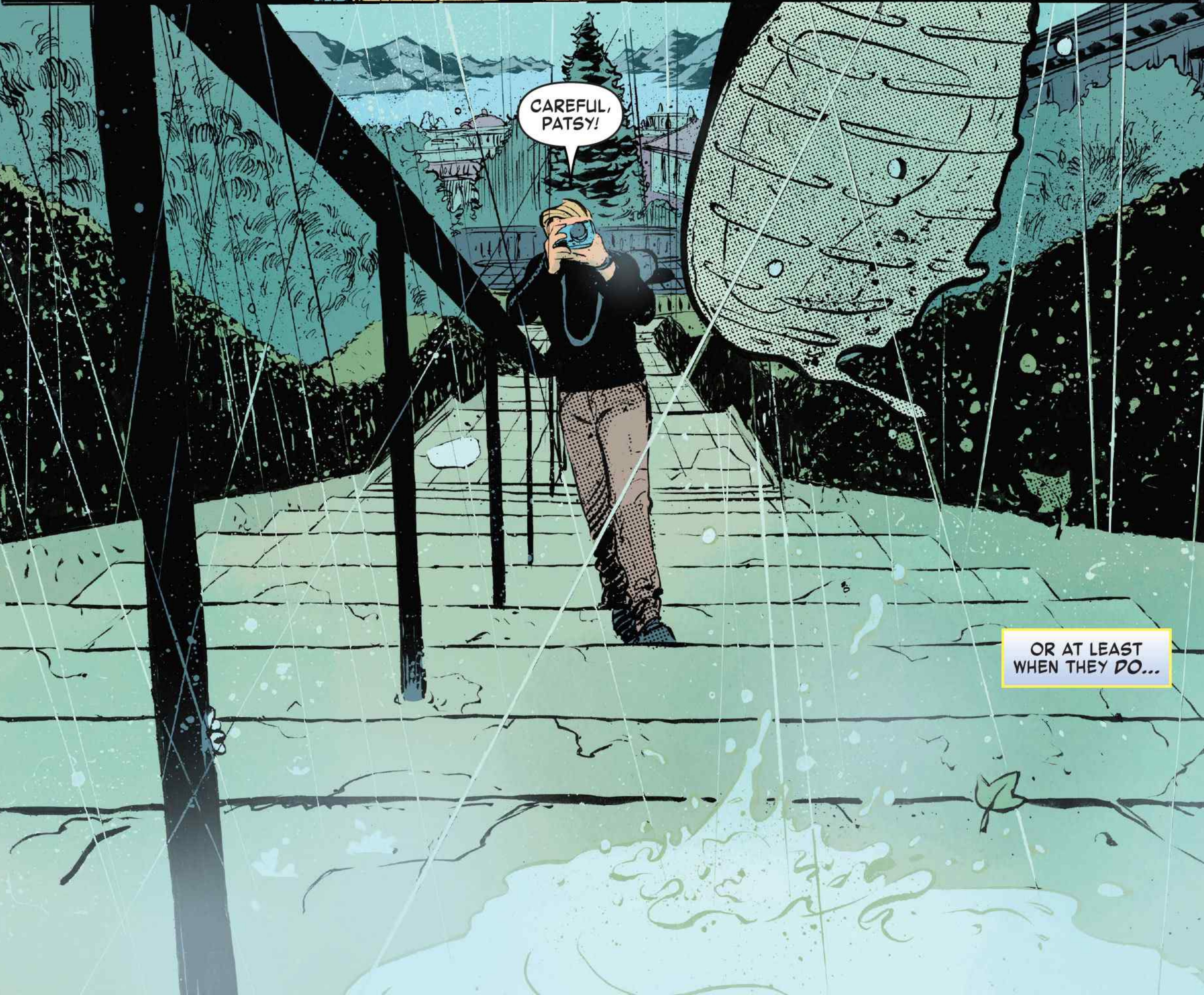
HOLD ON, HOLD ON...

I NEVER FALL.



TAKE THE PICTURE, SPALDING!

CATS DON'T FALL.



CAREFUL, PATSY!

OR AT LEAST WHEN THEY DO...



...THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO LAND ON THEIR FEET.

OH DEAR.

I'VE GOT YOU.
OOF...

I FELL THAT DAY.



I CERTAINLY DID.

AND--I GUESS--
SOMETIME AFTER...



...MAYBE I
KILLED YOU.

OR MAYBE
SLEEPWALKER
DID.



Now.

NEITHER SEEMS
RIGHT. ALL THE
SAME...



...I DIDN'T TELL RICK THAT
I FOUND HIS *IMAGINATOR*
AT YOUR HOUSE, IN THE ROOM
WHERE YOU *DIED*, PHASED
THROUGH THE FLOORBOARDS.



JUST IN
CASE.



WE ARE
BEING **FRAMED**,
RICK.

MAYBE.
I DUNNO.



WE
ARE BEING
PLAYED FOR
FOOLS.

BY
WHO?



BY **HER**,
PERHAPS.

NO. NOT
PATSY.

I KNOW
HOW YOU FEEL
ABOUT HER.



YEAH, WELL...
NOW **SHE** DOES
TOO. THANKS
TO ME...

WE NEED TO
INVESTIGATE.



YOU'RE
SUSPENDED, AND
I'M **HERE** IN THIS
HOSPITAL.

WE NEED
TO LEAVE AT
ONCE AND **WORK**
THIS CASE.



THE OTHER SLEEPWALKERS WILL NAIL US TO THE WALL. AND I'M IN A BAD WAY HERE. YOU KNOW I AM.



I CAN'T SHAKE THIS @#\$% FUGUE... I'VE GOT NO ENERGY, NO DESIRE TO...



PART OF ME THINKS MAYBE I'M JUST HANGING IT ALL ON PATSY, ANY HOPE OF HAPPINESS... BECAUSE THE TRUTH IS, MY MIND ALREADY KNOWS THAT IT--AND SHE--ARE TOTALLY OUT OF REACH.



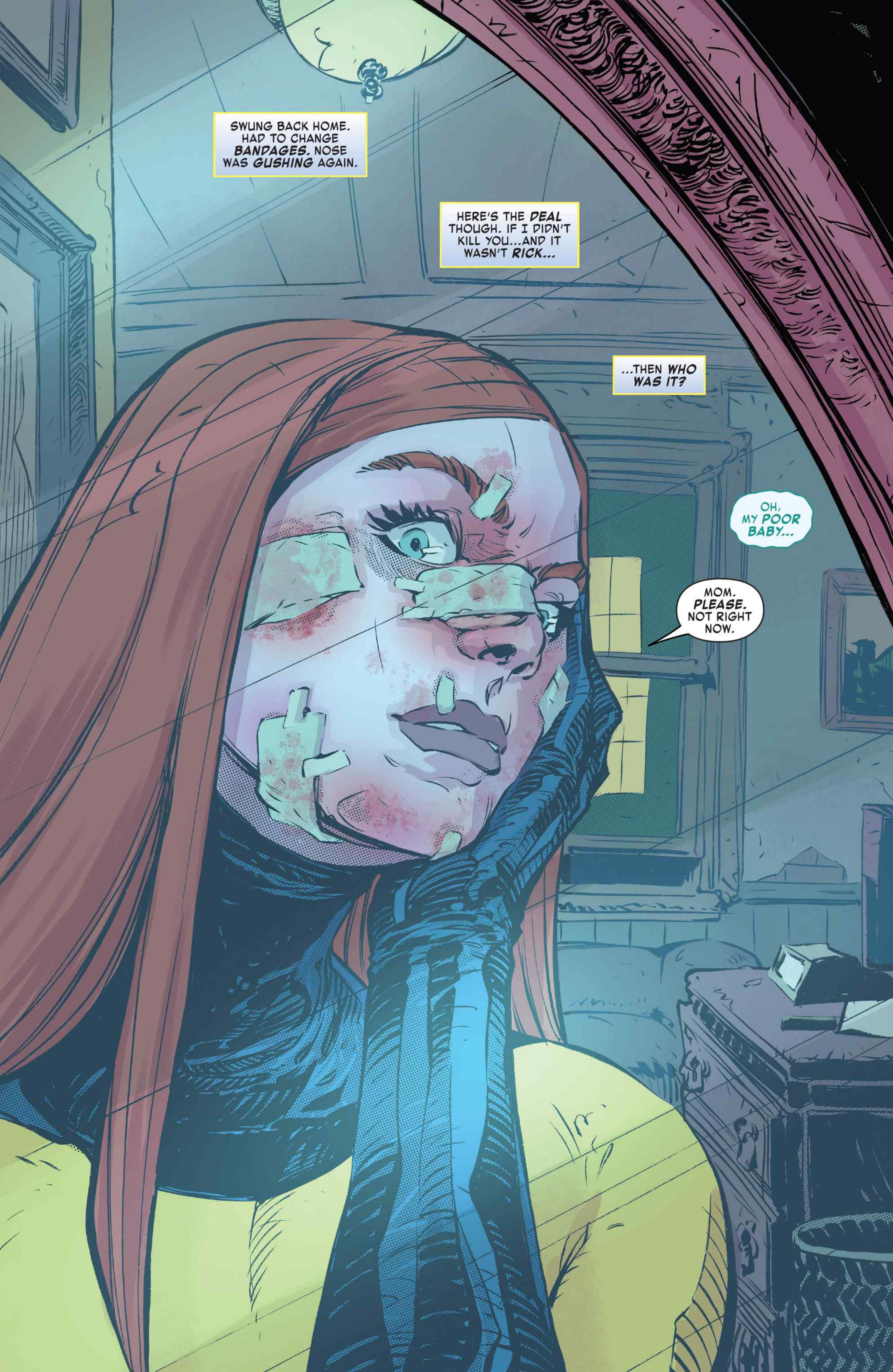
RICK.



I CARE ABOUT YOU.



BUT WHAT KIND OF HELP DO YOU THINK YOU'LL GET WHEN THE SLEEPWALKERS CONVICT US OF MURDER?



SWUNG BACK HOME.
HAD TO CHANGE
BANDAGES. NOSE
WAS *GUSHING* AGAIN.

HERE'S THE *DEAL*
THOUGH. IF I DIDN'T
KILL YOU...AND IT
WASN'T *RICK*...

...THEN **WHO**
WAS IT?

OH,
MY POOR
BABY...

MOM.
PLEASE.
NOT RIGHT
NOW.



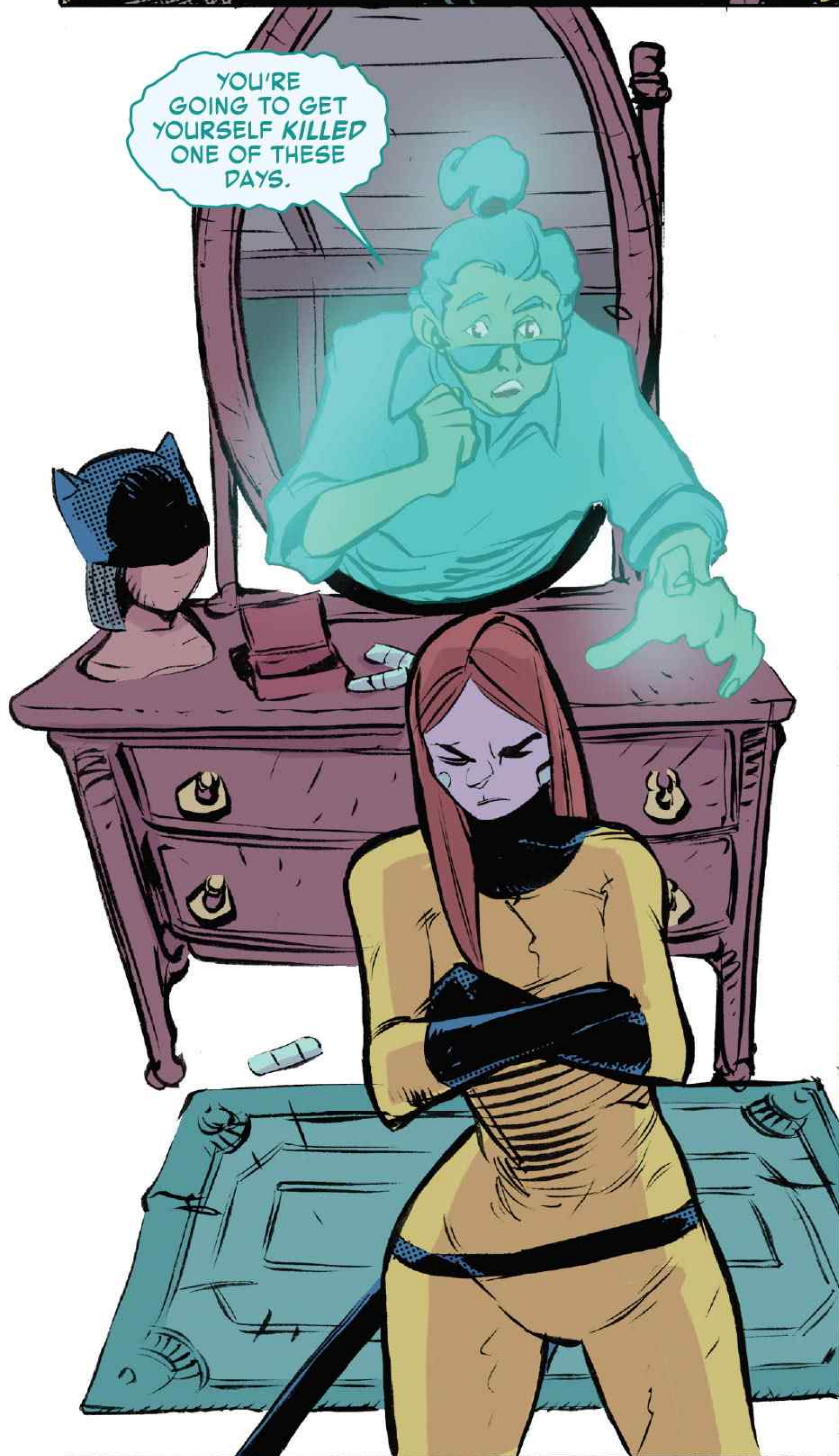
YOU DON'T
DESERVE
THIS.

WHAT'S THAT
SUPPOSED TO
MEAN?

YOU DON'T
EVEN HAVE ANY
POWERS.

YES,
I DO.

I JUST DON'T
UNDERSTAND THEM,
AND SOME OF 'EM
ARE M.I.A.



YOU'RE
GOING TO GET
YOURSELF KILLED
ONE OF THESE
DAYS.



BEEN
THERE, DONE
THAT.

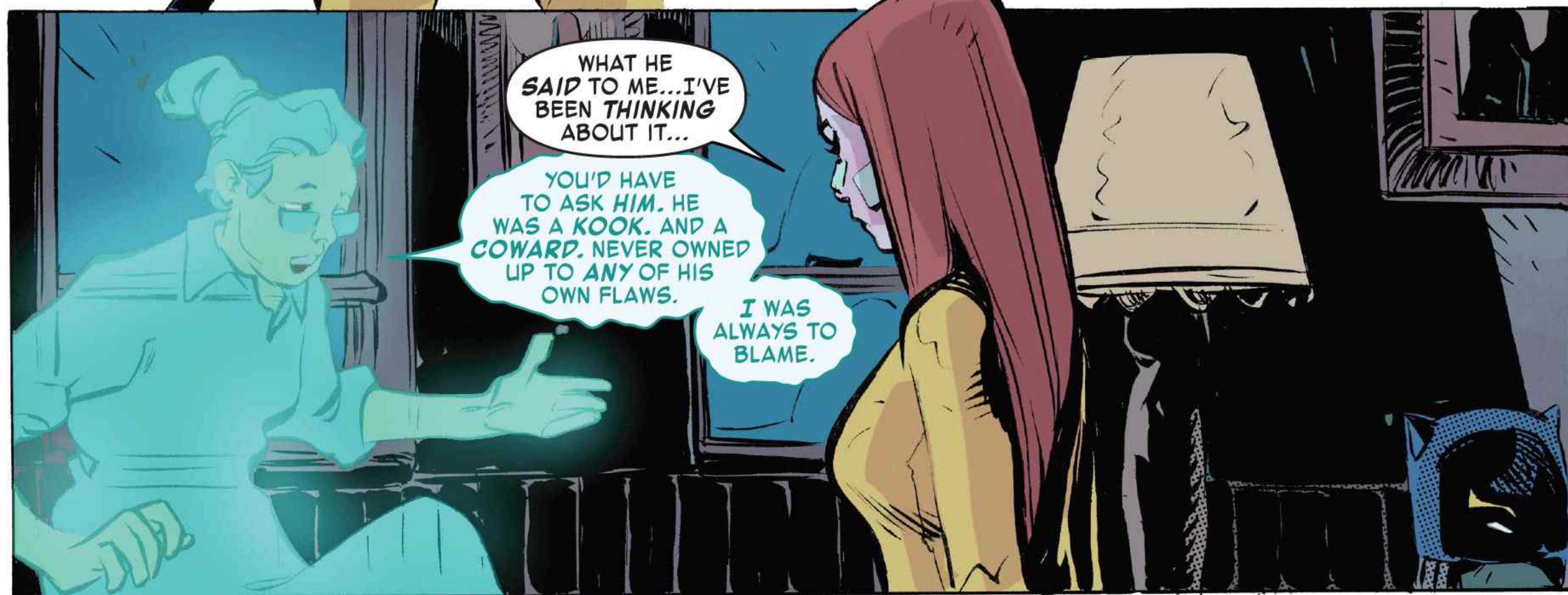


AND YOU'VE
NEVER BEEN THE
SAME SINCE.

MOM...



...WHAT
DID DAD
MEAN? WHEN
HE LEFT?



WHAT HE
SAID TO ME...I'VE
BEEN THINKING
ABOUT IT...

YOU'D HAVE
TO ASK HIM. HE
WAS A KOOK. AND A
COWARD. NEVER OWNED
UP TO ANY OF HIS
OWN FLAWS.

I WAS
ALWAYS TO
BLAME.



HE SAID I...
BUT THEN HE CAME
BACK. WHEN I WAS 12,
HE WANTED TO TAKE ME
BACK. WHY WOULD HE
WANNA TAKE ME
BACK IF I--?

SHHHH.
SHHHH,
NOW...



MY
DAUGHTER'S
A GOOD
GIRL.

BUT YOU
STILL...YOU STILL
LIED IN ALL THOSE
STORIES ABOUT
ME...



WHAT? NO,
I DIDN'T...

NONE
OF IT HAPPENED
THAT WAY. NONE
OF IT.

PATSY...



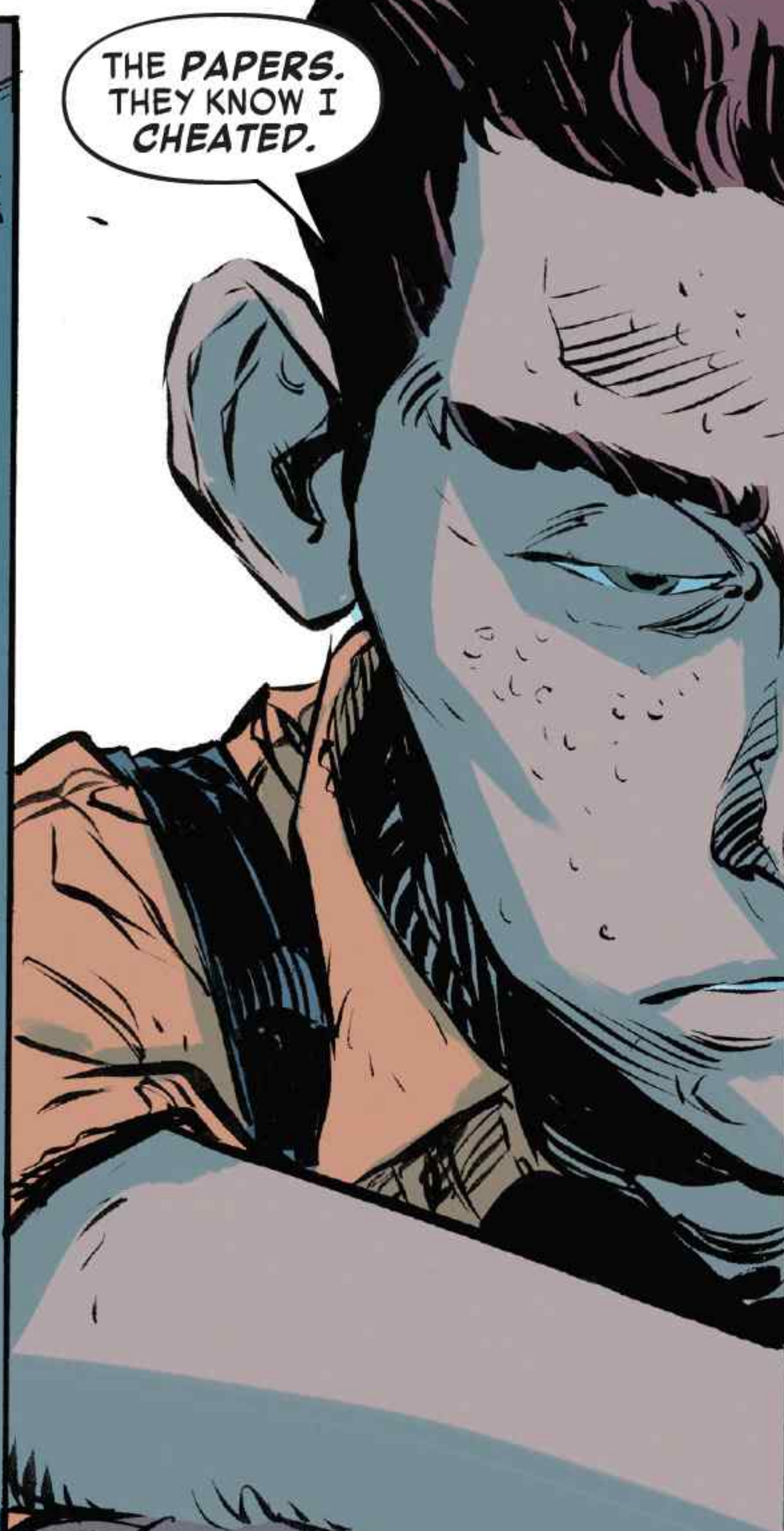
...OF COURSE,
IT MIGHT NOT HAVE
HAPPENED EXACTLY
THAT WAY, BUT...BUT
WHAT WAS
UNDERNEATH WAS
STILL TRUE...



...WHICH
IS THAT
MY PATSY'S
A GOOD
GIRL.

RIGHT...

16 Years Old.





I SAID
I WROTE ALL
OF 'EM, THAT I
WAS **SELLING**
THEM...

CHET, HE
COULDN'T...
DID DONAHUE
BELIEVE
YOU?

I DUNNO,
BUT IT WAS
ENOUGH FOR HIM,
I GUESS. HE HAD
HIS ANSWER.



YOU'RE
SAFE, PATSY.
I KEPT YOU
SAFE...



NO... NO
WAY... @#\$\$%,
I'M **BURNED**!
I'M TOTALLY
BURNED--

NO, I TOLD
HIM IT WAS
ME!



NO ONE'LL
BELIEVE THAT!
ZERO PEOPLE ARE GONNA
THINK THAT **CHEETAH** WAS
WRITING ALL THOSE PAPERS,
THAT YOU WERE THE
MASTERMIND!



DON'T
CALL ME THAT!
DON'T CALL ME
THAT NAME!

YOU DON'T
THINK I'M SMART?!
YOU DON'T THINK
I'M LIKE YOU?!



CHET...!

"SHE'S RIGHT,
YOU KNOW."

Now.

YOU ARE
A GOOD
GIRL.

@#\$% YOU,
DAIMON.

HOW'D
YOU EVEN *GET*
UP HERE?

YOU CALL.
I ANSWER.

WHAT DO YOU KNOW
ABOUT *SPALDING*? DOES
THIS HAVE ANYTHING TO DO
WITH YOUR ONGOING @#\$%
WITH *MEPHISTO* AND
BLACKHEART?*

AM
I ACTUALLY A
SUSPECT, OR ARE
YOU JUST BEING
LAZY?

IF YOU'RE
INVOLVED, AND
I MEAN IN ANY
WAY...

*SEE *IRON MAN/HELLCAT*
ANNUAL #1! --MARTIN

HOW *WELL*
DID YOU KNOW
SPALDING? I MEAN,
REALLY KNOW
HIM?

I KNOW HE
DIDN'T CONVINCE
ME TO KILL
MYSELF.

SEE, THAT'S
HURTFUL. THAT'S
NOT TRUE. BUT YOU
DON'T WANT TO THINK
ABOUT WHAT *MIGHT* BE
TRUE, SO YOU *HURT*
ME INSTEAD.

YOU TELL
YOURSELF A
LOT OF THINGS
TO GET BY,
DON'T YOU?

YOU'VE ALWAYS NEEDED TO SEE YOURSELF A CERTAIN WAY. WEAR THAT MASK, DO THE THING, GET ANGRY AT ME. I UNDERSTAND. IT HELPS YOU.

BUT YOU SHOULD PROBABLY ASK YOURSELF WHAT YOU'RE REALLY CAPABLE OF, PATSY.

THEN MAYBE YOU'LL GET CLOSER TO FIGURING OUT WHAT'S ACTUALLY GOING ON.

THAT IS, IF YOU CAN STOP BLAMING ME. OR DEATHURGE. OR BLACKHEART.

OR YOUR MOTHER. OR YOUR FATHER. OR HEDY. OR THAT NICE KID RICK AND HIS DREAMY COMPANION.

YOU MAKE YOUR OWN CHOICES.

YOU ALWAYS HAVE.



GET OFF MY ROOF.

YOU CALL. I ANSWER.



YOU LET ME KNOW WHEN YOU'RE FINALLY READY TO BE HONEST.



MAYBE DAIMON
IS THE ONE WHO'S
BEEN **BLOCKING**
MY MIND.

STOPPING ME FROM
PROBING THOUGHTS. FROM
LOOKING UNDER PEOPLE'S
MENTAL CUSHIONS.

FIGURING OUT WHAT'S
REALLY UP WITH FOLKS
LIKE **HEPY**. OR **RICK**.

OR YOU.

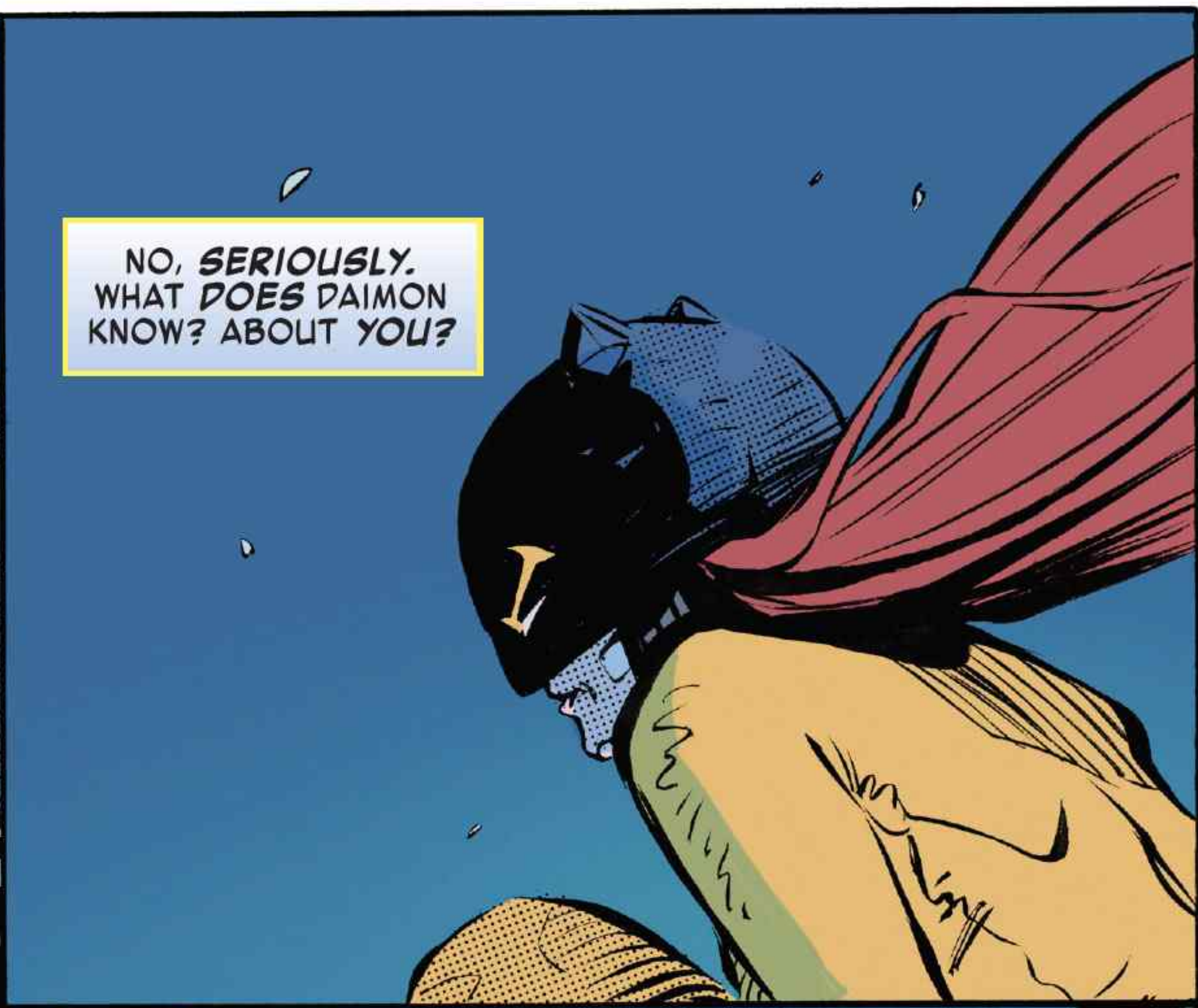
GUESS
I COULD'VE
ASKED HIM.

I COULD'VE
BEEN **ROUGH**
ABOUT IT.

BUT IT ALSO
DOESN'T **MATTER**.

BECAUSE I COULD
NEVER READ HIM
ANYWAY.





Recently.

CAN'T BELIEVE I'VE NEVER BEEN OUT IN THE BAY LIKE THIS.

I CAN'T EITHER.

ONE OF THOSE INLAND-CALIFORNIA KIDS.

RIGHT. I FEEL SORRY FOR YOU.

CLOSEST THING WE HAD TO EXCITEMENT WAS FRESNO.

SO FLAT YOU CAN WATCH YOUR DOG RUN AWAY FOR DAYS.

CAN I ASK YOU...WHAT IT WAS LIKE?

WHAT WAS WHAT LIKE?

BEING... DEAD.

12 Years Old.

WALKER RESIDENCE.

IT'S ME, KIDDO. IT'S DAD.

I... WHY? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?



I'M SORRY, I
JUST... I MEAN...
BEING...ON THE
OTHER SIDE OF
THINGS.

OF ALL
THIS.



LISTEN, I'M
COMING OUT THERE.
I WANNA...I WANNA
COME GET YOU.



THE SEA
AND SKY ARE NICE,
BUT...THERE'S CLEARLY
SO MUCH MORE.
TO EVERYTHING,
YOU KNOW?

YEAH...



...BUT
TRUST ME...
IT'S NOT AS
NICE AS
THIS.



REMEMBER
WHAT WE TALKED
ABOUT? THE DAY I LEFT?
WELL, I THINK...I THINK
I CAN HELP YOU. I
WANNA HELP YOU, KIDDO--



CLIK



I WANT
TO TAKE YOU
OUT TO THE COVE
SOMETIME. POINT
BONITA.







Point Bonita Lighthouse.

JUST
LIKE IN HIS
DREAMS.

YES.

YES.

I'M ASSUMING, OF
COURSE, YOU'RE TALKING
ABOUT **SPALDING
GRANTHAM**...

BLACKHEART. AS
IF THIS NIGHTMARE
COULD NOT GET
ANY WORSE...

To be continued!

HELLCAT

Welcome back, all! We hope you're enjoying the series--and speculating wildly about the identity of Spalding Grantham's killer! As we wait to catch up with your most recent emails, we figured we'd continue to share some of the feedback we received earlier on the **IRON MAN/HELLCAT ANNUAL #1**, which led to this series.

First off, I really enjoyed this story for Hellcat and Iron Man! I have been enjoying this run since I started reading, and love the interactions of the characters! I really did enjoy Hellcat's previous series and would like to see Patsy and Hedy in a miniseries or a new ongoing series that dives deeper into the dark parts of the character as well as brings back past characters from Patsy's life. Would also very much enjoy for Patsy's and Tony's relationship to grow a bit more! Keep up the good work!

--J

Chris is definitely not shying away from the darker aspects of

Hellcat's history and character, so hopefully, you're enjoying the new series as well!

Patsy is always a delight when she shows up, and her issues in **IRON MAN** were no exception, but the **IRON MAN/HELLCAT ANNUAL** was especially great. Count me in as one of the legion of Patsy fans who would love to read more of Patsy and Hedy's adventures in SF!

--Jemal

Ask and you shall receive, Jemal (this time around, anyway)!

We need more Patsy and Hedy. The **IRON MAN/HELLCAT ANNUAL** was fantastic, and we definitely need to see more of that pair in action. It's been great seeing Hellcat come into her own in the last few years, to see the character grow and be more than a doormat for Hellstrom writers.

--Christopher

I enjoyed the **IRON MAN/HELLCAT ANNUAL #1**, and I

would love to see more of Patsy and Hedy. I think it would make the **IRON MAN** comic more interesting to have Hedy getting involved in things. It would be great to see more focus on Hellcat as well.

Thanks for the great story!

--Tim Grunkemeyer

As you've seen by now, Patsy and Hedy's longstanding friendship --and rivalry--is playing a key role in the current series, so expect even more sparks to fly between the two (in both the past and the present) in upcoming issues!

That's it for now, but we can hopefully start sharing your letters on the new series in our next issue. So keep reading--and we'll see you next month!

--Martin

Email us at **MHEROES@MARVEL.COM** and be sure to mark your messages "okay to print" for a chance to see them featured in future issues!

NEXT

#3

After being accused of murdering her new boyfriend, Spalding Grantham, Hellcat has been on the run from the police. Now grievously wounded, can Patsy survive long enough to clear her name? And Rick Sheridan, a.k.a. Sleepwalker, continues his own investigation into Spalding's dark dealings--leading him right to the demon Blackheart! Things are about to go from bad to hellish for our heroes ... literally!



ZONE